United Nations S/2014/178

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 March 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 11 March 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a self-explanatory statement issued by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the recent series of attacks carried out by the Darfurian armed movements (non-signatories of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur) (see annex). The attacks resulted in the total destruction of several localities (Haskanita, Twaesha, Alleat/Jarelnabi and other villages) and atrocities committed against innocent civilians, including indiscriminate killings, looting, the burning of villages and mass displacement. The Government of the Sudan is working hard to contain the humanitarian repercussions in close coordination with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

The attacks were carried out upon the suspension of the talks in Addis Ababa between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) owing to the adamant rejection by SPLM-N of all proposals presented by the African mediation team led by Mr. Thabo Mbeki. By carrying out such destructive attacks, the Darfurian armed movements were showing solidarity with SPLM-N on their latest position in Addis Ababa. It is worth mentioning that those Darfurian armed movements are under the umbrella of the so-called Sudan Revolutionary Front, together with SPLM-N, and their objective is to topple the Government of the Sudan through military means.

Having brought this to your kind attention, we reiterate our demand to the Security Council to take immediate decisive actions against the armed movement that carried out the above-mentioned attacks.

(*Signed*) Hassan Hamid **Hassan**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 11 March 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to offer its condolences and sympathy to the families and relatives of the victims of the heinous attacks that were committed over the past few days by the Minawi faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement in several areas of Darfur. We should also like to offer our condolences and sympathy to the local communities and the refugees affected by those attacks.

The Ministry would like to draw the international community's attention to several facts. The attacks targeted peaceful villages and towns in which there are no military garrisons. Some social and tribal leaders were assassinated in those attacks, along with some tribal administration figures. The attackers also committed atrocities against unarmed civilians, engaged in looting, destroyed private property and public facilities, and abducted workers.

This series of attacks began shortly after the so-called Northern faction undermined the most recent round of negotiations concerning the regions of Blue Nile and Northern Kordofan and after the Minawi faction accused the Northern faction of betraying the National Front, the alliance of which both they and other armed movements are members. It is clear that these attacks were designed to undermine peace efforts, terrorize civilians as much as possible and cause the greatest possible displacement, with a view to making a statement at the expense of innocent lives and civilians' safety and stability.

These attacks also came at a time when the Government of the Sudan is intensifying its efforts to achieve stability and make it possible for displaced persons to return, as demonstrated by the ongoing visit of the Vice-President of the Republic to Southern Darfur, where he inaugurated projects to improve electricity service and create affordable housing. He also reviewed the progress made in the construction of the Western Salvation Road.

Moreover, the attacks occurred after the Government of the Sudan had endorsed the efforts of the President of Chad, Idriss Deby, to convince those groups in Darfur that have not yet laid down their arms to join the peace process, on the basis of the Doha Agreement, during the President's visit to the country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs puts these facts before the international community and calls on those Western Governments and organizations that were quick to condemn the Government of the Sudan to be, for once, impartial, objective and just. It furthermore calls on them to condemn those heinous attacks and take practical measures designed to compel the movements to accept peace and reject military action and the targeting of innocent civilians as a means of achieving political aims. The Ministry recalls that, since the end of 2011, the States of the regions of Central and Eastern Africa, acting through the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, have designated the armed movements that reject peace in Darfur as negative forces that threaten the entire region.

The Ministry further notes that those who were quick to condemn the Government of the Sudan have not taken any stand with regard to the efforts of the Northern faction to undermine the negotiations concerning the two regions.

The Ministry affirms that such blatant bias on the part of influential Western parties in favour of the armed movements is what encourages them to continue their attacks on innocent civilians and resort solely to arms.